

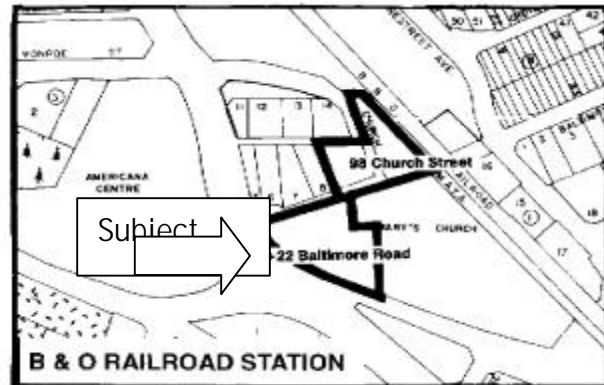
**CITY OF ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

**May 16, 2000
MEETING NO. 00-05**

APPLICATION: HDC00-0161

DATE FILED: April 12, 2000

APPLICANT: St. Mary's Roman
Catholic Church
Nick Bucci, Plant
Manager
520 Veirs Mill Road



PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was built in 1817 and is the oldest church still in use in Rockville. It is located at the intersection of Veirs Mill Road and Rt. 355 (Hungerford Drive).

PREVIOUS ACTIONS AT THIS ADDRESS:

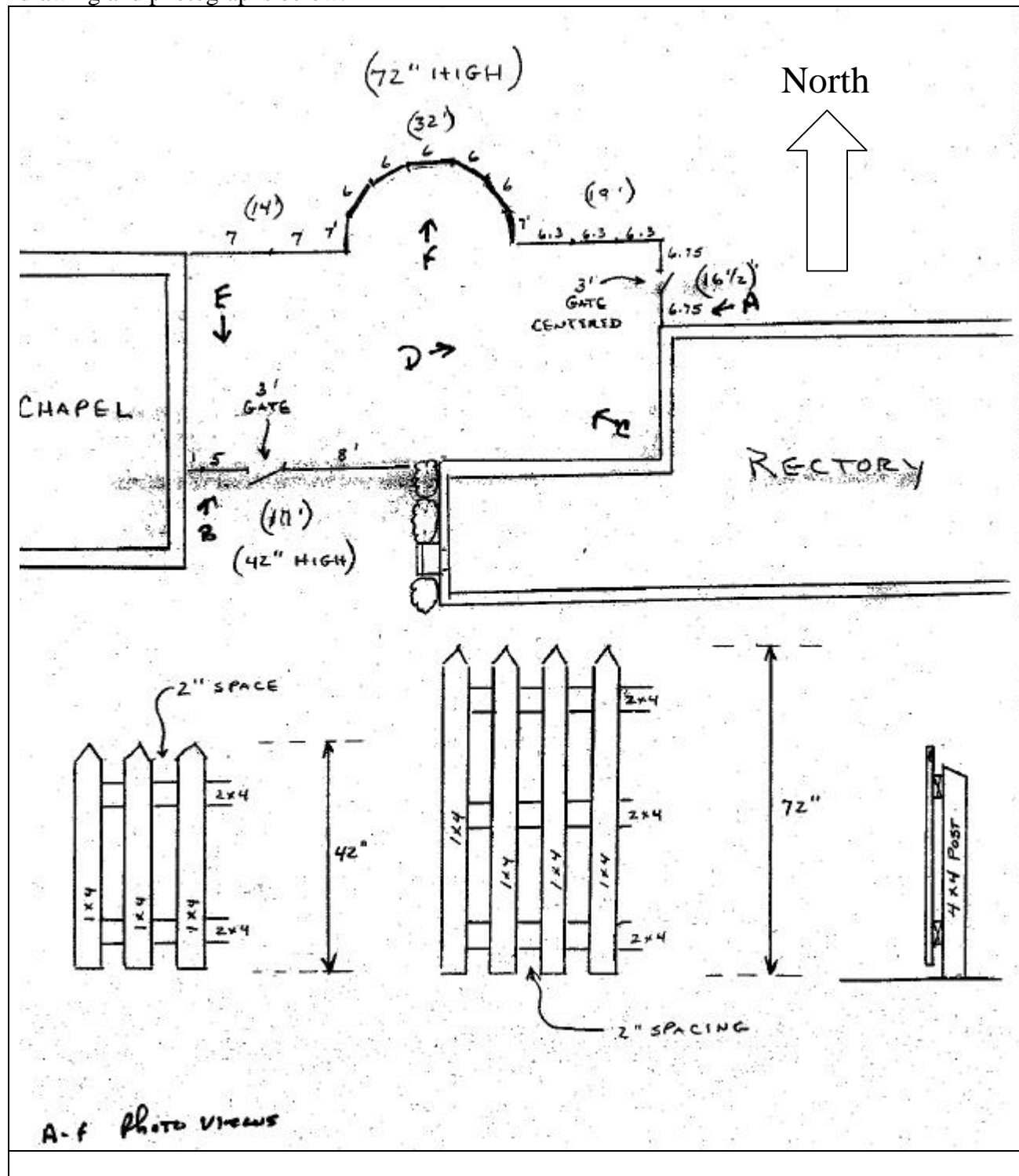
HDC96-0089	Installation of A/C system - approved
SPX94-0220	Private elementary school - approved
HD-3-91	Removal of three trees - approved
HD-170-86	Removal of a dead tree - approved
HD-141-85	Placement of Peerless Rockville plaque
U-191-64	New rectory - approved
U-219-65	New church building - approved

REQUEST:

The applicant requests approval to install two fences to deter pedestrian traffic from cutting through the yard and the cemetery.

The first proposed fence will enclose the rear yard of the rectory. It is a white painted wood picket fence with a total length of 98.5 feet. The fence is 65 feet long and 6 feet high on the north side of the yard with a semi-circular extension located approximately in the middle. The fence continues for 16.5 feet on the east side, including a centered 3 foot gate. The fence is 17 feet long on the south side, including a 3 foot gate, and the height along this southern section is reduced to 42 inches. The fence consists of 1x4 vertical pickets with 2-inch spacing.

The remainder of the yard is enclosed by the exterior walls of the church and the rectory. See drawing and photographs below.





Area to be fenced with picket fence. Shown is curved flower bed between Chapel and the Rectory which corresponds to the semi-circle in the plan.

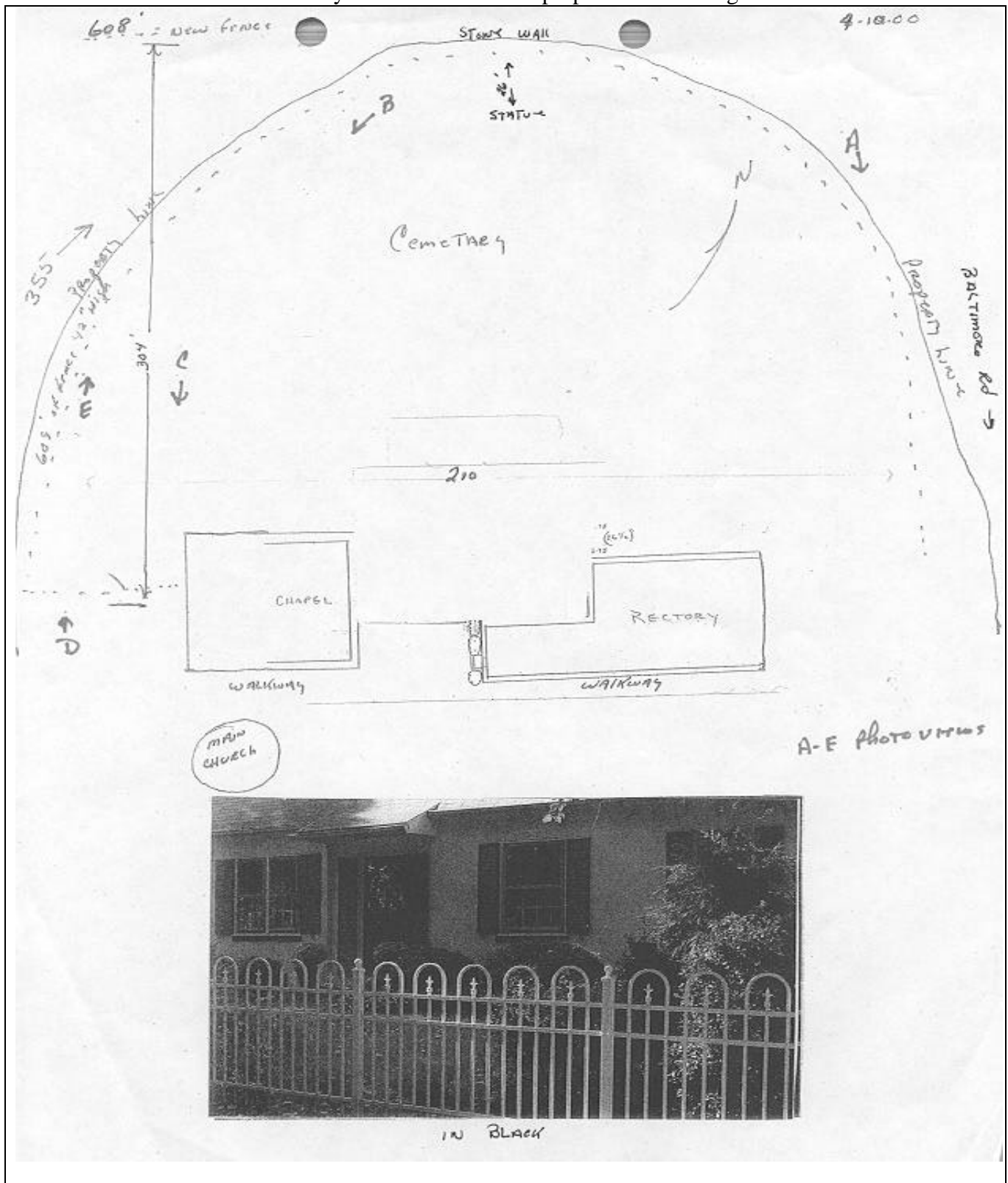
The second proposed fence will surround the cemetery. It is a black wrought iron style fence but it is constructed of aluminum. It will enclose the cemetery in a semi-circular design just inside the property line along Rt. 355 and Baltimore Road. The fence is 608 feet in total length and 42 inches high. See drawing and photographs on next page.



Cemetery area along Veirs Mill Road/ Rockville Pike, Hungerford Drive,
and Baltimore Road to be fenced



Cemetery Fence Site Plan and proposed fence design



STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of HDC00-0161 based on site visits of the property and neighboring environment, and the appropriateness of the proposed designs submitted by the applicant.

- 1. Historic, archeological, or architectural value and significance of the site or structure and its relationship to the historic, archeological, or architectural significance of the surrounding area.*

St. Mary's Church, built in 1817, is the oldest church still in use in Rockville and the first Catholic Church in Montgomery County to be built of brick. Most of the original church remains today. It is a contributing resource to the B&O Railroad Station Historic District.

- 2. The relationship of the exterior architectural features of the structure to the remainder of the entire structure and to the surrounding area.*

Wooden picket and wrought iron fences were popular in the nineteenth century and are recommended by the fence guidelines in "Information for City of Rockville Historic Property Owners" as appropriate to the historic districts. The aluminum fence proposed for the perimeter of the cemetery has the appearance and design of a wrought iron fence, even though a modern material will be used. The proposed fences do not exceed the City's height restrictions for standard and corner lots. The fences will preserve the historic integrity of the church and enhance its setting. The potential for vandalism and property damage will be diminished by reducing the amount of through pedestrian traffic.

- 3. The general compatibility of exterior design, scale, proportion, arrangement, texture, and materials proposed to be used.*

The proposed fences are compatible with the exterior design, scale, proportion, arrangement, texture, and materials of the church and the rectory. The picket fence is appropriate for the smaller area to be enclosed and complements the church's simple Georgian architecture. The larger fence is more formal and more open, allowing visibility of the cemetery.

- 4. To any other factors, including aesthetic factors, which the Commission deems to be pertinent.*

Approval is subject to the following conditions:

1. The Applicant must apply for and receive a fence permit from the City of Rockville before proceeding.
2. Fence must be erected on owner's property.